



State of Louisiana

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Office of the Governor

March 5, 2011

**GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL**

Press Office: Melissa Sellers, Kyle Plotkin

Contact: 225-342-8006, (c) 225-328-3755

## **Governor Bobby Jindal Declares State of Emergency for Severe Weather in South Louisiana**

**BATON ROUGE-** Today, Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency for severe weather in South Louisiana.

### ***STATE OF EMERGENCY – TORNADOES AND SEVERE WEATHER 5 MARCH 2011***

---

**WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

**WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation;

**WHEREAS,** on March 5, 2011, a particularly severe weather system, consisting of strong winds, heavy rains and tornadoes, passed across South Louisiana. As a result of this weather system, in excess of one hundred (100) homes and businesses in Acadia, Terrebonne and Jefferson Parishes have been damaged or destroyed; communities are experiencing prolonged power outages; in excesses of 500 citizens have been evacuated; and a dozen individuals have been injured with one fatality;

**WHEREAS,** a declaration of emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to respond, to request for assistance from local governments and to allow federal agencies and federal resources to be deployed if necessary; and

**WHEREAS,** this severe weather system and resulting damage has and will continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State of Louisiana;

**NOW THEREFORE I, BOBBY JINDAL,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of this severe weather system across South Louisiana resulting in significant damage to individuals and property and creating emergency conditions that further threatens the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

**SECTION 2:** The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration.

**SECTION 3:** All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather system.

**SECTION 4:** The state of emergency extends from Saturday, March 5, 2011 through Monday, April 3, 2011, unless terminated sooner.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this Saturday, the 5th day of March, 2011.

**/S/Bobby Jindal**  
**GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**

**ATTEST BY**

**/S/ Tom Schedler**  
**Secretary of State**